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U. S. Department of Agriculture
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

FUND FOR ADULT EDUCATION

I. WHAT IT IS

The Fund for Adult Education is an independent corporation, established in May 1951 by the Ford Foundation and receiving its present support from the Ford Foundation. As an independent agency, however, it could raise additional funds and continue under other auspices if the Ford Foundation no longer supported it. C. Scott Fletcher is president of the Fund. Main offices are at 914 East Green Street, Pasadena 1, Calif. (Sycamore 6-2653). The New York office is at 655 Madison Avenue (Templeton 8-2915).

In a statement of purposes issued at the time of its establishment, the Fund for Adult Education defined its broad goal as that of Education in a Democratic Society; marked off as its distinctive province "that part of the total educational process which begins when formal schooling is finished"; and set as its special aim "the expansion of opportunities for all citizens to continue education throughout adult life."

II. WHAT IT IS DOING - The present program of FAE is in four areas:

1. Fact Finding.-- A comprehensive study is now under way on the scope of existing adult education activities, the agencies sponsoring them, their content, methods, resources, accomplishments, and potentialities. You are familiar with the study now being made of rural adult education. This is being done by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges with resources made available by FAE. Dr. Charles P. Loomis, of Michigan State, is director of the project, and the Federal extension office is represented on the staff by Dr. Joseph Matthews.
2. Mass Media of Communication.-- In this field, FAE is promoting experimental and demonstrational activities, principally in the fields of educational radio and television. Other work is being done in motion picture, press, and periodical fields. FAE's largest project in the mass media field is the TV-Radio Workshop. The Workshop's first radio program is THE PEOPLE ACT.
3. Programs for Community Discussion.-- Believing that in the last analysis face-to face participation in discussion is the most effective means of adult education, FAE is giving considerable emphasis to this area--and it is in this area that the FAE program seems to have the most to offer Extension. Specific services will be announced as they become available. Present plans include films on "Discussion" and the "Need for Adult Education"; a film-discussion series on "Great Men--Great Issues"; and one on international understanding, "World Affairs Are Your Affairs."
4. Test Cities.-- About five cities have now been set up as pilot projects in seeing what can be done to coordinate and strengthen existing adult education programs. No rural pilot projects have been established. A decision on this matter awaits the results of the rural study.



